

"Can you tell the committee whether, in an agricultural point of view, property has been improved or deteriorated by the rail road passing through it?—It has been improved."

"Have the farmers been benefited by it?—They have."

"Have Colonel Lee and Mr. Trafford obtained higher rents in consequence of it?—They have."

"Have you taken land yourself at an increased rent.—At double the original rent."

"Mr. Hardman Earle, before mentioned, was examined to the same point."

"Do you know any instance in which the value of land has been affected by the railway?—I think the Chat Moss was an instance of that kind. They bring manure from Manchester to Chat Moss; and wherever a station is formed, the value of the land is improved. You see advertisements recommending a site, because the rail road runs near or through it."

"Do you know of any instances by which land has been depreciated by it?—I think I can say positively there is not an instance on the Manchester line."

"Do you know of any persons quitting their dwelling-houses in consequence of it?—I do not know one. I should be glad to purchase land on the line, to build for myself."

We may here state that Chat Moss is an extensive district of bog and morass, over which the rail road was carried at incredible labor and expense. It was of course previously altogether unproductive. We now, however, see on each side of the road extensive systems of drains gradually carrying off the water, and leaving tracts of considerable fertility. There is no doubt that within a very short period the whole of this morass will be transformed into a fertile tract of arable land.

Another ground of objection is the injury likely to be produced to turnpike trusts. Even if the truth of this objection be admitted, it is not one of sufficient force to warrant the sacrifice of public benefit. A turnpike trust is, or ought to be, held only for the public good; and if it should be affected by the establishment of a rail road, this would only prove that one was found more beneficial than the other.

But it is a curious fact, that this apprehended injury